



File Code: 1950

Date: November 23, 2015

Dear Interested Parties:

Thank you for your interest in the California Integrated Weed Management Project located on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Carson and Bridgeport Ranger Districts. As part of the scoping process for this project, a Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) has been prepared and is available for your review at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46417. If you would prefer a CD or hard copy of the complete NOPA, please contact Maureen Easton, Project Manager, Carson Ranger District, by phone at 775-882-2766, or email at measton@fs.fed.us. The NOPA was developed to provide the public and other interested parties an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed action. The NOPA also summarizes potential issues and pertinent design features that have been incorporated to reduce impacts to the environment.

The Proposed Action includes annually mapping and treating a portion of the invasive plant infestations that occur in California on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The number of infestations and acres treated each year will depend upon available funding. Treatments would involve integrated prescriptions that generally combine the use of herbicides with mechanical, manual, and biological control methods over several years. The proposed action would include treating existing populations as well as any future infestations that might occur.

The Proposed Action was generated from the purpose and need for this project which includes the need to prevent, eradicate and/ or control infestations of invasive plants on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest that occur in California. The purpose is also to establish criteria, under which an Early Detection Rapid Response approach would be implemented, thereby allowing for rapid treatment of newly discovered target invasive plants. There is a need to take an aggressive approach in controlling and eradicating invasive species that occur on National Forest System Lands within California. Invasive plants are spreading at an alarming rate in California, and fast encroaching onto native plant communities impacting fire regimes, wildlife habitats, recreation opportunities, forage production, and scenic beauty.

HOW TO COMMENT AND TIMEFRAME:

The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from individuals, as well as from Federal, State, and local agencies Tribes, and organizations that may be interested in or affected by this project. The Forest Service encourages your substantive comments on this proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the responsible official should consider in issuing a decision. Your comments will help us to define key issues associated with the proposed action, to develop alternatives, and to focus the analysis of effects in the environmental assessment. The assessment will be used to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. If there is no potential for significant impacts, that finding along with the environmental assessment and a draft decision will be sent to those who



commented. If the environmental assessment concludes that there is the potential for significant impacts then an environmental impact statement would be prepared.

This proposal will be planned under authorization of the Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process and will be subject to the objection process outlined in 36 CFR 218 Subpart A and B. Instead of an appeal period, there will be an objection process before the final decision is made and after the final environmental analysis document and draft decision are mailed. In order to be eligible to file an objection, specific written comments related to the project must be submitted during scoping or any other periods public comment is specifically requested on this EA.

The environmental assessment and draft decision will be completed and mailed to those who have submitted comments, and to those who have requested to be included on the project mailing list. Individual members of organizations must have submitted their own comments to meet the requirements of eligibility as an individual. Objections received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only. Names and addresses of those who comment and/or file objections will become part of the public record.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following the publication of the legal notice in the Reno Gazette Journal. Publication of the legal notice is anticipated to occur on December 2, 2015.

The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for the Proposed Action. You should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other sources.

Comments must be submitted to: District Ranger, Carson Ranger District, 1536 South Carson St. Carson City, Nevada 89701 fax 775 884-8199. The office business hours for those submitting comments in person are: 8am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.doc) to: comments-intermttn-humboldt-toiyabe-carson@fs.fed.us. Comments must have an identifiable name attached or verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Maureen Easton, Project Manager at (775) 882-2766.

Sincerely,

IRENE DAVIDSON
District Ranger